

Message Text

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SECDEF WASHDC

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USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5898

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: DRC MEETING OCTOBER 22; KEY ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL

GUIDANCE - DURATION OF HOSTILITIES

REF: A. USNATO 5768 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 230776 (NOTAL)

C. DIA 9866 (NOTAL) WITHDRAWN

D. USNATO 5881

SUMMARY

DRC AGREED THAT DURATION OF HOSTILITIES SECTION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO PREDICT LENGTH OF WAR, BUT SHOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR STOCK LEVELS, MOBILIZATION CAPABILITY, REINFORCEMENT, ETC. SOME REPS NOTED POSSIBLE LACK OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MC 161(74) AND REFERENCES TO PACT LOGISTIC WEAKNESSES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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SCENARIOS IN US PAPER. IS WILL PRODUCE REPORT FOR KEY ELEMENTS PAPER REFLECTING CONSENSUS EXPRESSED AND CLEARLY STATING REMAINING DIFFERENCES AMONG NATIONAL VIEWS. DRC WILL CONSIDER WHETHER TO INCLUDE THIS SUBJECT AS A KEY ELEMENT FOR

MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING EXAMINATION OF NEW DRAFT. DRC WILL DISCUSS PRIORITIES AT NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 28. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONSIDER AUTHORIZING MISSION TO AMEND US PAPER ALONG LINES LAID OUT IN REF C, TO BRING PAPER MORE IN LINE WITH MC 161 AND IMPROVE ITS ACCEPTABILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG REP (B/G SCHUNEMANN) OPENED DISCUSSION BY SAYING BONN FOUND IS DRAFT (DRC/WP(74)4) LANGUAGE ON THIS SUBJECT ACCEPTABLE, BUT WISHED

TO MAKE TWO POINTS CLEAR: (A) TIME OF EMPLOYMENT OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS CANNOT BE FIXED IN DAYS. NATO MUST HAVE CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY WHICH CAN WAR OFF FIRST SHOCK OF COMBAT AS FAR FORWARD AS POSSIBLE. NATO MUST BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THIS TYPE AND LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

OVER PERIOD OF DAYS OR WEEKS. AGGRESSOR MUST RECKON WITH THIS CAPABILITY, IN TAKING PREPARATORY ACTION TO COPE WITH IT AND IN BEING AWARE OF THE RISKS OF ESCALATION OF CONFLICT. (B) SECTION ON DURATION OF HOSTILITIES MUST BE THE BASIS FOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS, SUCH AS STOCKAGE LEVELS, MOBILIZATION CAPABILITIES, REINFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES. SECTION MUST NOT GO INTO NUCLEAR PHILOSOPHY OR TRY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OF STRATEGY.

2. SHAPE (B/G MILLER) NOTED IS DRAFT DISCUSSES ONLY CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND DOES NOT ADDRESS OTHER AREAS OR ASPECTS OF OPERATIONS, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY MARITIME SITUATION. WHILE AGREEING GENERALLY WITH INTENT AND THRUST OF IS DRAFT, HE EMPHASIZED NECESSITY FOR SACEUR TO HAVE SUFFICIENT STANDING FORCES,

PROPERLY PREPARED, CORRECTLY POSITIONED, AND POSSESSING NEEDED FLEXIBILITY TO COUNTER INITIAL, VIOLENT WARSAW PACT ASSAULT. HE CITED STATEMENT THAT RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS QUOTE MUST BE AS EARLY AS NECESSARY AND AS LATE AS POSSIBLE UNQUOTE. IF NATO HAS TO USE TAC NUCS, IT MUST USE THEM BEFORE CONVENTIONAL FORCES ARE DEPLETED,

OTHERWISE IT WOULD SIMPLY MOVE FROM A BAD CONVENTIONAL SITUATION TO A BAD TAC NUC SITUATION.
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3. UK REP (MACDONALD) SAID MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE CANNOT PROVIDE ANSWERS

CONCERNING DURATION OF HOSTILITIES, BUT SHOULD PROVIDE GENERAL BASIS FOR DESIGN OF FORCES. THE UK FOUND PARAS 21 AND 22 OF IS DRAFT PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE, THOUGH HE MIGHT FURNISH IS SMALL AMENDMENT TO PARA 21. HE STATED MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE SHOULD INCLUDE MARITIME SITUATION, AND NOT TREAT IT IN SPEARATE SECTION BUT INCLUDE TI WITHIN EACH SECTION AS APPROPRIATE. HE FOUND REFERENCES TO WARSAW PACT

LOGISTIC CAPABILITY IN US PAPER PUZZLING, AND SAID HE WOULD ASK HIS QUESTIONS ON THIS MATTER BILATERALLY.

4. MC REP (TOMMASINI) SAID MC CAN ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN IS DRAFT, AS

MODIFIED BY IMSM-395-74. REFERRING TO PARA 30B OF US PAPER, MC CANNOT AGREE THAT CONVENTIONAL FORCES OF THE ALLIANCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE

MAIN DETERRENT AND DEFENSE AGAINST PLAUSIBLE CONVENTIONAL ATTACKS. THIS

STATEMENT DOES NOT AGREE WITH MC 14/3. FURTHER, MC CANNOT AGREE TO STATEMENT IN PARA 30B QUOTE EXCEPT UNDER SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE CIRCUMSTANCE THAN DESCRIBED IN THE "PLANNING SCENARIOS" ABOVE, THE CONVENTIONAL FORCES OF THE ALLIANCE APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT TO HOLD AGAINST A WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL ATTACK WELL FORWARD WITHOUT EARLY RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNQUOTE. THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT AGREE WITH MC'S RISK ASSESSMENT.

6. SACLANT REP (CAPT. MAYL) CONTRASTED PAUCITY OF TREATMENT OF MARITIME SITUATION IN ONGOING MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE EXERCISE WITH TREATMENT IN LAST YEAR'S MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT. SACLANT CONSIDERS THAT SECTION ON DURATION OF HOSTILITIES MUST TAKE MARITIME SITUATION INTO ACCOUNT. MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE MUST NOT ARBITRARILY FOLLOW SINGLE SCENARIO (LAND ONLY, LAND AND AIR), BUT MUST INCLUDE FULL RANGE.

7. US REP (BGEN BOWNAM) STATED SPECULATION AS TO LENGTH OF WAR WAS NOT USEFUL EXERCISE. PURPOSE OF DURATION OF HOSTILITIES SECTION IS TO GIVE NMAS AND NATIONS SOME IDEA OF HOW TO PLAN FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF NATO FORCES. OBJECT IS DETERRENCE. IF PACT REGARDS NATO AS BEING ABLE TO OUTLAST IT LOGISTICALLY FOR PLAUSIBLE CONVENTIONAL SCENARIOS, IT WOULD ENHANCE DETERRENCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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DETERRENCE IS NOT ENHANCED IF PACT CAN INFER NATO DEFENSE WILL COLLAPSE ON DAY FOLLOWING LENGTH OF TIME SPECIFIED FOR PLANNING. PRESENT GUIDANCE (MC 55/2) SPECIFIES MAINTENANCE OF SUFFICIENT STOCKS UNTIL RESUPPLY BECOMES EFFECTIVE. CONCEPT OF "OUTLASTING THE PACT" SAYS SAME THING, BUT PUTS MORE EMPHASIS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF PROBLEM: (A) NEED FOR SUFFICIENT STOCKS TO DEFEND AGAINST CONVENTIONAL ATTACK, WELL FORWARD, UNTIL INITIAL PACT STOCKS ARE EXHAUSTED. THIS ALLOWS NATO TO ABSORB INITIAL SHOCK OF ATTACK; (B) NEED FOR LOGISTIC FLEXIBILITY. WHERE DOES NATO STAND NOW? US ANALYSES SHOW THAT, WHILE THERE ARE SOME SHORTFALLS, NATO COUNTRIES TOGETHER HAVE MORE THAN 30 DAYS STOCKS IN CENTER REGION. BY CRUDE COUNT, NATO OWNS AS MUCH TONNAGE OF AMMUNITION AS PACT HAS STORAGE SPACE. LOGISTIC STRENGTH IS MATTER OF SIMPLE INSURANCE AGAINST EVENTUALITY THAT SUCCESSFUL CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE MIGHT COLLAPSE FOR LACK OF SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION. IN CONCLUDING, BOWMAN READ SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR DURATION OF HOSTILITIES (REF D) DRAWN FROM REFS A AND DB.

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USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 5898

8. SHAPE REP SUPPORTED US STATEMENT, BUT SAID ISSUE WENT BEYOND LOGISTICS. HE RETURNED TO POINTS HE MADE PREVIOUSLY CONCERNING REQUIREMENT TO WITHSTAND INITIAL SHOCK. HE ALSO SAID HE COULD NOT SEE LINK BETWEEN PARA 35 (LOGISTICS AND SUSTAINING CAPABILITY) OF US PAPER AND MC 161(74). NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) SAID THAT WHILE NETHERLANDS FOUND APPROACH IN US PAPER ATTRACTIVE, IF FELT PACT LOGISTICS SITUATION DESCRIBED IN SCENARIOS (PARA 23) DID NOT FULLY ACCORD WITH MC 161(74). HUMPHREYS SAID THAT SCENARIOS ARE IMPORTANT FOR MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE IF NOT FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION. WHEN DRC RETURNS TO DISCUSSION OF SCENARIOS, IT MUST FACE ISSUE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SCENARIOS AND MC 161. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF QUESTIONS RAISED ON SECTIONS OF US PAPER CONCERNING PACT LOGISTIC WEAKNESSES, RECOMMEND WASHINGTON CONSIDER AUTHORIZING MISSION TO AMEND US PAPER ALONG LINES LAID OUT IN REF C TO BRING PAPER MORE IN LINE WITH MC 161 AND IMPROVE ITS ACCEPTABILITY. END COMMENT. BELGIAN REP (COL TAYMANS) POINTED OUT NEED TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL

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MC 14/3 AND SACEUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT IN BACK OF MIND DURING MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DISCUSSION. HUMPHREYS SAID SACEUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT WAS CERTAINLY IN BACK OF MIND OF DRAFTER OF PARA 21 OF IS TEXT.

9. TURKISH REP (TOPUR) TOOK EXCEPTION TO IMPLICATION IN PARA 22 OF IS DRAFT THAT SITUATION ON FLANKS MORE CONDUCTIVE TO POSSIBILITY OF MORE PROLONGED HOSTILITIES ON LIMITED SCALE AND AT LOWER LEVEL OF INTENSITY THAN SITUATION IN CENTER REGION. DANISH REP (ROSENTHAL) SUPPORTED TOPUR. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) TOOK EXACT OPPOSITE VIEW

AND SUPPORTED PARA 22. POSSIBILITY OF PROLONGED HOSTILITIES SUPPORTS RATIONALE FOR CAPABILITY TO REINFORCE FLANKS. ROPUR POINTED OUT THAT CAPABILITY TO REINFORCE FLANKS IS AS MUCH FUNCTION OF WARNING TIME AS DURATION OF HOSTILITIES.

10. FRG REP SAID HE WAS PUZZLED BY TURN OF DISCUSSION. HE REITERATED THAT MINISTERS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSING STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES IN DECEMBER. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER DURATION OF HOSTILITIES WAS KEY ELEMENT FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION. UK REP SHARED FRG VIEW. HUMPHREYS STATED THAT DURATION OF HOSTILITIES WAS CERTAINLY KEY ELEMENT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE IF NOT KEY ELEMENT FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

11. SUMMING UP, HUMPHREYS CHARACTERIZED DISCUSSION AS USEFUL AND STIMULATING. HE FELT A SORT OF CONSENSUS HAD DEVELOPED, WHICH IS WOULD TRY TO CAPTURE IN A NEW DRAFT KEY ELEMENT ON DURATION OF HOSTILITIES. AT THIS POINT, BOWMAN CIRCULATED WRITTEN TEXT OF US LANGUAGE HE HAD READ TO DRC, AND ASKED HUMPHREYS NOT TO ATTEMPT TO PAPER OVER DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, BUT RATHER INCORPORATE THEM AS ALTERNATIVE POSITIONS FOR DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS. DRC WILL CONSIDER WHETHER TO INCLUDE THE SUBJECT AS A KEY ELEMENT FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING EXAMINATION OF NEW DRAFT.

12. DRC WILL MEET MONDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 28, TO DISCUSS PRIORITIES.MCAULIFFE

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